

For Immediate Release

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**State Agencies, Employees Awarded for Excellence in Business with
California Small and Disabled Veterans Businesses**

At a ceremony in Citrus Heights, the Department of General Services today presented awards to nine state agencies and 16 state employees for their outstanding work with California small businesses and disabled veterans' businesses. Small businesses employ more than 51 percent of the work force in California, according to the National Association of Business.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our great state," said DGS Director Fred Klass. "We applaud these organizations and state workers for their leadership in California, and their efforts to expand even in this difficult economy."

State agencies work annually to meet a goal of doing at least 25 percent of purchasing and contracting with small businesses. Additionally California's Veterans and Military Code's goal is to buy at least three percent of all goods and services from Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises (DVBE).

"The state purchases approximately \$8 billion annually in goods and services, construction and public works to serve the people of California. It's our responsibility to do all we can to support the businesses that are the engine of California's economy," added Klass.

The State Agency Recognition Awards (SARA) honor state departments and employees for their best practices, creativity and outstanding achievements to advance California's Small Business programs and DVBE programs.

The agencies receiving top honors at the SARA awards were:

Governor's Award – Military Department (California National Guard). In the past year, nearly 95 percent of the department's public works contracts were issued to small businesses. The department awarded more than 31 percent of its public works contracts to DVBE's, either through award as the prime contractor or through a mandatory 10 percent DVBE participation in all publicly bid projects.

State & Consumer Services Agency Secretary's Special Achievement Award – State Small Business/DVBE Steering Committee Five years ago, state agencies recorded about 17.9 percent small business contract participation and 1.79 percent for DVBEs, but over the past three years, state agencies have averaged better than 26 percent small business contract participation and will soon exceed 4 percent DVBE contract participation due, in a large part, to the leadership of this steering committee. The committee consists of Tracie Wagner-Zamora, Franchise Tax Board; Robert Beamer, CalVet; Michael Aguilio, Department of General Services; Kevin Aria, Consumer Affairs; Kevin Childers, Department of Motor Vehicles; Colleen Reubens, CalRecycle; Dale Clack, CSU Sacramento; Shaironda Morris, Department of Rehabilitation; and Gloria Anderson, CalVet.

Most Notable Improvement for Small Business contracting –

Medical Assistance Commission – Small Department Category – 38.9 percent increase

High-Speed Rail Authority – Medium Department Category – 6.4 percent increase

CSU Chancellor's Office – Large Department Category – 42.8 percent increase

Most Notable Improvement for Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) contracting –

Medical Assistance Commission – Small Department Category – 38.9 percent increase

High-Speed Rail Authority – Medium Department Category – 27 percent increase

CSU Chancellor's Office – Large Department Category – 44.7 percent increase

State Agency Recognition Awards –

Gold – Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Commodities Acquisition Unit.

Silver – Department of General Services Real Estate Services Division

**Bronze – Department of Corporations, Department of General Services
Office of State Publishing**

**Honorable Mention – Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of
Motor Vehicles**

The following state employees were honored with **Advocate of the Year** awards:

Gold – Albert Rivas, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Silver – Ryan Huddleston, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Bronze – Stephanie Green, Calif. Public Utilities Commission

**Honorable Mention – Tracy Zamora, Franchise Tax Board; Liza Whitmore,
Caltrans District 3; Kevin Aria, Department of Consumer Affairs**

**Small Business Advocate Innovation Award – Molly Lovett, Department of General
Services Real Estate Services Division.** Through Lovett's efforts, her division has
increased its contracting participation for small businesses from 26 percent in 2008/09 to
30.2 percent in 2009/10 and for DVBE contracting from 5.9 percent in 2008/09 to 10.2
percent in 2009/10.

**Advocate/Support Award – Catrina Blair, Department of General Services
Procurement Division.** Ms. Blair was recognized for excellence in promoting the state's
small business and the DVBE programs including helping small business owners with
state certification requirements and explaining the state contracting process.

**Special Distinguished Service Award – Olivia Fonseca, Caltrans Office of Business
and Economic Opportunity.** For the past 11 of her 34 years of state service, Ms.
Fonseca has been advocating for small businesses, DVBEs and Disadvantaged Business
Enterprise state and federal contracting participation. Ms. Fonseca implemented the
Caltrans Small Business Task Force, which saw the small business contracting
participation at Caltrans rise from 9.1 percent in 1999 to 25.8 percent in 2009.

See a multimedia presentation of the awards, [here](#).

*The Department of General Services acts as the business manager for the State of California. DGS helps
state government better serve the public by providing services to state agencies including procurement and
acquisition solutions, real estate management, leasing and design services, environmentally friendly
transportation, and architectural oversight and funding for the construction of safe schools.*

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